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NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXXVIII.

"LET RECENT VICTORIES SPUR US ON TO GREATER EFFORT."

Madras Governor's New Year Message to the New Year number of the *Madras War Review*.

Madras, Dec. 31.

Jan. 1, 1943, will be the fourth New Year's Day of this world wide war.

Looking back on 1942 we have every reason for sober confidence in our ultimate victory.

The year started with serious reverses. In the East, the loss of Malaya, the Philippines, and the Netherlands East Indies, followed by that of Burma, brought the war to the frontiers of India. In Russia, the Germans occupied the Don Valley and part of the Caucasus, and in Africa Rommel drove us back almost to Alexandria. But in the last few months the tale has been very different. The Germans have met with a decisive reverse at Stalingrad, and are left to face the rigours of a second winter in Russia. We have won a great victory in Egypt, smashing Rommel's army and driving him out of Cyrenaica also. At the same time American and British forces, now supported by the resurgent French, have gained possession of all West and North Africa, except Tripoli and part of Tunisia, which may soon also be in our hands. In the East, the Japanese have suffered heavily in New Guinea and the Solomons, and their fleets have repeatedly met defeat.

These successes should not induce in us a feeling of complacence. As Mr. Churchill said, they are not the beginning of the end, but the end of the beginning—the end of eternal defensive fighting, and the beginning of the Allied offensive. Let them rather spur us on to greater efforts to hasten our final victory.

FOR THE FUTURE.

Here in India most of our thought and energy has lately been diverted to combating the forces of disorder, wilfully let loose upon the country, by those who thereby do so ill a service to the cause of human liberty which they profess to admire. Had these forces not been promptly quelled, India would soon have fallen victim to Japanese invasion, and not only political liberties, but education, justice, and personal freedom would have been ruthlessly crushed beneath the tyrant's heel, as they have been in Burma and Malaya, and as they will remain until our forces, with ever gathering might, come to liberate these countries once more.

Let it, therefore, be the duty of every patriotic citizen of this country to do all he can to quell riot and disorder wherever it may rear its ugly head, and to devote his energies to mobilizing the people whole-heartedly behind the war effort, that the cause of liberty may triumph, and the curse of Nazi tyranny and Japanese aggression be abolished for ever.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

26—12—42 to 8—1—43.

The events of two weeks are summarised below:—

Russia.—Winter has descended in all severity along the entire front, and although it acts as a brake on the Russian advance, it is helping considerably in interfering with the German communications and exposing the German troops to intolerable suffering. In the words of Col. Bauer, the German commentator, the hardships to the enemy are unspeakable. He says that the German soldiers are 'fighting breathless and exhausted, through masses of snow and freezing winds. The cold paralyses the will. The men sleep the best way they can, sometimes in small cottages, packed shoulder to shoulder, standing up, or in shifts; food freezes, water freezes; it is impossible to take off clothes, impossible to wash'.

German armies after hammering in vain for nearly two weeks south-west of STALINGRAD to relieve the entrapped forces retreated towards KOTELNIKOVO. The pursuing Red Army re-entered KOLESCHATOE, NIKOLASKOE, and MOROZOKA. On December 26, that is, eleven days after the commencement of

the Middle Don Offensive, KATSYNSKAYA, an important town and Railway station was taken; on December 28, the Red Army bypassing MILLEROVO reached within 80 miles of ROSTOV and on December 29, captured KOTELNIKOVO itself and ZASHKIEL and YORGOVAYE. The Germans fighting desperate rear-guard actions offered fierce resistance at KANTEMIROVKO, 150 miles east of KHARKOV, while the Russians recaptured CHARKKOVO between KANTEMIROVKO and MILLEROVO. Soviet troops pressing from KOTELNIKOVO are now fanning out towards the Dan and threatening ROSTOV from four points, namely, MILLERVO, KOTELNIKOVO, VOROSHILOVGRAD, YASHKAL, CHERNYSHKOVSKAYA, CHERNAJSKHOV MOROZOVSKAYA and TSMYLYANSKAYA have been re-captured.

The capture of KOTELNIKOVO, as the *News Chronicle* tells us is a major German reverse. It knocks the lynch-pin as it were out of the German defensive position along the lower Don.

Meanwhile, in the central sector, on New Year's day, the Russians re-captured VELIKIYE LUKI, an important road and railway junction as well as ELISTA, the capital of the Kalmuck Republic, and are now, advancing from VELIKEYI LUKI towards NOVOSOKOLNIKI near the Latvian border.

In the CAUCASUS, a new Red offensive launched about Christmas time south of NALCHIK at the southernmost tip of the German penetration in the south, initially with a view to prevent the transfer of forces to STALINGRAD, has now ended in the re-capture of MOZDOK, the gateway to the GROZNY oil-fields and of NALCHICK itself as well as PROKHLADNAYA and MAISKOE.

Tripolitania.—The Victorious Eighth Army having occupied SIRTE and BUERAT HSUN is now driving the enemy from WADI CHEBIR (Great Dry Ditch). Rommel is reported to be digging in at WADI ZEMZEM. Progress is slow owing to the weather and the broken nature of the country.

In the south Fighting French Forces pressing from CHAD have contacted the enemy at FEZZAN.

Tunisia.—Here also rainy whether is responsible for the slowing down of operations. Fighting continues near MEDJAZ. British submarines are sinking Axis supply ships in the Mediterranean. TUNIS and BIZERTA are being battered. On January 3, a French convoy arrived in MOROCCO, the first to arrive since the collapse of the French Republic.

Solomons.—The attacks on Japanese shipping continue. On December 26 for instance American bombers sank two of them south of VANGUNU island in the NEW GEORGIA group. Supplies to Japanese troops in GUADALCANAR now arrive by parachute only.

New Guinea—The BUNA Mission has fallen: the fight now centres round SANANDA.

Creat Britain.—RABAUL was raided on December 28 and January 6.

Timor.—LAIVAI and FUILORO in the north-east corner of the island were raided on several days.

Wake and Peale Islands were attacked on Christmas eve.

New Georgia.—MUNDA was raided on December 24.

The Aleutiens—Shore installations at KISKA were shelled on December 26, 30 and 31.

Sumatra.—British aircraft raided SABANG at the north-end of SUMATRA.

China.—Japanese aircraft raided YUNNAN-YIH between KUNMING and the BURMA border. In East HUPEH the Japanese driving towards the Tapichan mountains were repulsed. A Japanese thrust from East KWANTUNG is reported. The Chinese have retaken CHIANSHAN and TAIHU on the ANHWEI-HUPEH border.

Siam.—BANGKOK was raided on December 26-27.

India.—On December 28, Calcutta, CHITTAGONG and FENI had short raids. The damage was very slight.

Burma.—The following places were raided: December 23. MAINGKWAN (Japanese installations); December 24. MAGWE (aerodrome) and TENGCHUNG; December 25. TOUNGOO area, KYANK—PADAUNA (Railway trucks), CHAUK (oil-tanks), AKYAB (gun-posts and buildings); MONGWA (a train); December 26. HEPO (an aerodrome), and LASHIO; December 27. MAGWE, LASHIO, MAYMYO and MENGAMAO; December 28. RANGOON (shipping); December 30, SHWEBO; December 31. MOHNYIN, MAWBE, HOPIN; January 2. MAGWE, AKYAB; MONYWA; January 4 and 5. the area between the North Arakan coast and Pagoda point at the southern tip of BURMA and inland, as far as MANDALAY and NABA. On December 30, Allied patrols contacted the enemy in the ARAKAN District and clashes occurred in the east and west of the Mayu River.

Miscellaneous.—(1) The whole Belgian Judiciary—numbering about 1,000 Judges and magistrates—have gone on strike as a result of the German interference with the course of justice. The Nazis attempted to supersede the Belgian municipalities with a view to suppress patriotic local administration and some citizens in order to test the legality of the step took the matter to the Court of Appeal. As the Judges were about to pronounce the procedure illegal, the Germans intervened and demanded that judgment should be deferred. The three Judges of the Supreme Court consequently resigned and, following suit, the rest of the judiciary have struck work.

(2) A joint statement has been issued by the British Government and 16 other Allied Governments and the French National Committee, declaring the Allies' determination to combat and defeat the plunder that is going on in occupied territories by the Axis powers. It is now revealed that systematic

spoliation has followed each case of aggression and has taken every form 'from open looting to cunningly camouflaged financial penetration.' The plundering includes works of art, bullion, bank notes, commercial stock and shares, confiscation and purchases at forced sales. In the case of RUSSIA and North AFRICA the Germans are stowing away the stolen property in neutral countries and persuading neutral citizens to act as screens. A similar system of looting is carried out by JAPAN in the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

21—12—42 (Monday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Aerodromes on the ATLANTIC coast of the LOW COUNTRIES.

NIGHT:—

The industrial city of MUNICH (Germany).

NORTH AFRICA.

Landing ground at HOMS (7 planes destroyed; others damaged).

The ports at TUNIS and LA GOULETTE.

An enemy ship off the coast of SICILY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the ground along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The shore installations at KISKA (Aleutians)

The shore facilities at MUNDA (N. Georgia).

Jap cargo ships at KAHILI (Solomons).

The aerodrome and the harbour at AKYAB (Burma).

The steamer in the FATY-OGYA creek (Burma).

22—12—42 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (1 Br. plane missing).

DAY:—

Railway and other targets in North-west Germany and the LOW COUNTRIES.

Tugs in DUTCH canal.

Gun posts in HOLLAND.

A goods train in FRANCE.

Enemy railway targets in FRANCE and the LOW COUNTRIES.

An enemy convoy off the DUTCH Islands (2 axis ships sunk).

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks and aerodrome at TUNIS and BIZERTA.

Railway targets in Southern TUNISIA.

TRIPOLI.

Landing ground at HOMS.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

Axis forces retreating on the central, Middle Don and STALINGRAD areas.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions in the BUNA area.

Jap supply ships off BUNA.

Enemy installations at TIMOR.

A steamer near AKYAB (Burma).

Enemy motor transport in the MYITTHA valley.

23—12—42 (Wednesday).

EUROPE

DAY:—

The docks at SAINT MALO.

Offensive sweeps over BRITANNY and NORMANDY.

DEN HELDER (Holland).

NAPLES and **TARANTO** (Italy).

NORTH AFRICA.

The landing ground at HON.

The docks at TUNIS, BIZERTA and SFAX.

Railway targets near SFAX.

MEDITERRANEAN.

The aerodrome at TYMBAKE (CRETE).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded planes all along the entire RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions in the BUNA area (N. Guinea); MUNDA (N. Georgia).

The aerodrome at MAGWE (Burma).

The oil refinery at YENANGYAUNG (Burma).

Buildings at RATHEDAUNG.

24—12—42 (Thursday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks at GABES and BIZERTA.

The aerodrome at SFAX.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft all along the entire Eastern front.

FAR EAST.

Aerodrome at MUNDA (N. Georgia) (24 Jap planes shot down).

Enemy objectives in the TOUNGOO area (Burma).

Railway trucks at a siding at KYAUK-PADAUNA (Burma).

An oil tank at CHAUK (Burma).

Gun posts and buildings at AKYAB (Burma).

A train near MONYWA (Burma).

25—12—42 (Friday).

EUROPE.

No air raid anywhere on the Continent (being Xmas day).

NORTH AFRICA. (One Axis plane destroyed).

Barges off the coast of TUNISIA.

The railway near SOUSSE (TUNISIA).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the Russian battlefield.

FAR EAST.

Enemy shipping in the harbour at RABAUL.

A base in the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO.

LASHIO (Burma).

26—12—42 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

The harbour at SOUSSE.
The docks at BIZERTA.
TUNIS

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The Jap position at BUNA (N. Guinea).
An aerodrome at HEHO (Burma).

27—12—42 (Sunday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks at TUNIS.
Ry. yards at SOUSSE.
Axis forces west of WADI CHEBIR.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Shipping and port facilities at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Warehouses in VITIAZ STRAITS.
An aerodrome at CAPE GLOUCESTER.
LAIVAI (Timor).
The aerodrome at MAGWE (Burma).
A steamer on the IRRAWADY (Burma).
LASHIO (Burma).
Japanese bases in western BURMA and YUNNAN.

28—12—42. (Monday).

EUROPE.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

Roads near TUNIS.
The docks at SOUSSE (Tunisia).
A ship off PANTELLARIA Island (the ship sunk).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

MAYMYO and MENGAMAO (Burma).
The aerodrome at MAGWE (Burma).
Shipping and harbour at RABAUL (N. Britain).
An aerodrome at GASMATA (N. Britain).
LAIVAI and **FUILORO** (Timor).
The harbour at MERAUKA (Dutch Guinea).

29—12—42 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (2 Allied planes missing).

DAY:—
Offensive sweeps over the LOW COUNTRIES and Northern FRANCE.
Railway trains in FRANCE.

NORTH AFRICA.

The aerodrome at TUNIS.
Docks at SFAX and GABES.
Enemy vehicles on both sides of TRIPOLITANIA-TUNISIAN border.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Ground troops in the BUNA area (N. Guinea).
The aerodrome at LAE (N. Guinea).
The enemy positions at GASMATA.
The aerodrome area of KAVIENG.
The aerodromes at MONYWA (Burma) and TOUNGOO (Burma).
LASHIO (Burma).
Offensive patrols over the NAYU River area (Burma).
The harbour and shipping at RANGOON (Burma).
MUNDA (N. Georgia).

30—12—42 (Wednesday)

EUROPE (3 allied planes missing).

DAY:—
Submarine bases at LORIENT (France).
Ry. objectives in the BULOGNE and ABBEVILLE areas.

NORTH AFRICA.

Shipping at SOUSSE.
Docks at TUNIS and BIZERTA.
Landing grounds at HON.
The harbour at TRIPOLI.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

The harbour and shipping at RABAUL (N. Britain).
FULLORO and BETANO (Timor).
Enemy barges at VANGUNU Island.
Enemy ships at KISKA (Aleutians).
The air base at SHWEBO (Burma).

31—12—42 (Thursday)

EUROPE (2 Axis planes destroyed).

DAY:—
Ry. works in FRANCE and BELGIUM.
PAS DE CALAIS area (France).

NORTH AFRICA.

Shipping and docks at SFAX and SOUSSE.
Military objectives in GABES and central TUNISIA.
MURZUK (Libya).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian front.

FAR EAST.

The aerodrome at LAE (9 Jap planes shot down).
Air combats over the aerodrome (11 Jap planes shot down).
The aerodrome and harbour at KISKA (Aleutians)
A train at MOHNYIM (Burma); **MAWLU** (Burma); **PINBAW** (Burma).

1—1—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastel waters.

NORTH AFRICA.

The harbour and railroads at TUNIS.
The docks at SOUSSE and GABES.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

Enemy defences in the BUNA area.
A Jap submarine in WIDE BAY (N. BRITAIN).
An aerodrome at BUIN (Solomons).
The town area of MERAUKE.
Coastal shipping in the TAUNGUP area (Burma).
The port of AKYAB (Burma).

2—1—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

Allied airfields in NORTHERN FRANCE.

NORTH AFRICA.

The harbour at LA GOULETTE.
The docks and military camp at SOUSSE.
The railway between SOUSSE and SFAX.
PALERMO (SICILY).

CRETE.

The aerodrome at HERAKLION.
Other airfields in CRETE.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes all over the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Enemy position in the BUNA area (N. Guinea).
An aerodrome at GASMATO (N. BRITAIN); BUIN (Solomons).
Japanese shipping at RABAUL.
The aerodrome at MAGWE (Burma).
Enemy coastal craft near AKYAB.
Area west of RATHEDAUNG.

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

22—12—42 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

Several towns and villages in South-east ENGLAND (2 Axis planes shot down).

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied forward positions near MED-JEZ-EL-BOB.

RUSSIA.

Dropping supplies to the besieged German army in the STALINGRAD area.

FAR EAST.

Calcutta (India) (2 Jap planes damaged).

23—12—42 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

RUSSIA.

RUSSIAN armies advancing in all the sectors.

FAR EAST.

Port MORESBY (N. Guinea).
Two villages in east BEGAL (India).
CHITTAGONG area (India).

24—12—42 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid.

RUSSIA.

Russian position in the STALINGRAD area.

FAR EAST.

Calcutta (India).
The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).

25—12—42 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

RUSSIA.

Russian position in the MILLEROVO area.

FAR EAST.

Calcutta area (India).

26—12—42 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

MED-JEZ-EL-BOB (Tunisia).

RUSSIA.

Dropping supplies to the besieged army in the STALINGRAD area.

27—12—42. (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No air attack.

RUSSIA.

Russian position in the VELIKIYE LUKI area.

FAR EAST.

No information.

28—12—42 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No air attack anywhere.

RUSSIA.

Russian reinforcements between the VOLGA and the DON.

FAR EAST.

CALCUTTA area (India).
Air combats over the BUNA area (N. Guinea) (15 Jap planes shot down).

29—12—42 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

A point on the South-east coast.

NORTH AFRICA.

BENGHAZI.

RUSSIA.

Landing grounds behind the advancing Russian army.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over GOODENOWGH Island (1 Jap plane shot down).

30—12—42. Wednesday.

BRITAIN.

Coastal districts of South-east and South-west ENGLAND.
A town in South-east ENGLAND (very slight damage).

NORTH AFRICA.

The Allied base at BONE (Algiers).

RUSSIA.

Russian troops advancing in the MOZDOK area.

31—12—42 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No air attack anywhere.

NORTH AFRICA.

Air combats over the LIBYAN Front.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

1—1—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

BONE (4 **Axis planes** shot down; many damaged).

RUSSIA.

Dropping supplies to the surrounded army in the STALINGRAD and RZEV areas.

2—1—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

A place on the South east coast of ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

Air combats over TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Russian positions in the RZEV Front.

3—1—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

Coastal districts in North-east ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

BONE (Algeria).

RUSSIA.

Russian army advancing in the RZEV, MOZDOK and central DON Fronts.

SIDE LIGHTS.

1943. We have no pretensions to crystal-gazing to look into the future but as we believe in the logic of events, we shall, at the beginning of the new year, offer a few facts for the reader's cogitation. If 1940, as it turned out, was a year of suffering and survival, if 1941 was a year of preparation and if 1942 was a year of Fate, the closing events of 1942 lead to the expectation that 1943 is going to be a year of success, if not of victory. Victory, as Smuts has told us, may be 'sudden' and unexpected, lurking round the corner. And we have certainly turned the corner. We have scored our first century or, to change the metaphor, we have struck shrewd-blows, though not the knock-out blow yet and we have Montgomery's assurance that the enemy is already groggy. 'Everything is at stake', bewails Goebbels, and strangest thing of all, the almighty Hitler prays to God and calls upon his soldiers 'to fight for life'. We do not any longer hear of *blitzes* and triumphs. Whether in the Russian steppes, or the African desert, or the soil of BURMA or NEW GUINEA the enemy is reeling and turning back. The initiative has changed hands.

War is a matter of men and machines. To the band of the United Nations, already nearly thirty, the French Empire has been lately added. The U. S alone is raising an army of five millions and will double its armaments production in 1943. The Eastern Mediterranean now being cleared of the enemy is a foretaste of the coming deliverance of the whole of the sea in 1943, just as the British Armada which landed the Anglo-American Forces on November 8, is a foretaste of the mastery of the U-boat in the Atlantic that will be accomplished in 1943. 'Never' in history, as Field-Marshal Lord Gort has reminded us, 'never has a Continental nation emerged victorious from a long war against a nation with a large Navy'.

To INDIA also 1942 was a year of fate—the year of the first bombings, and unfortunately, of C. D. also. But it has also been the year of the highest recruitment and the landing of large Anglo-American help. So she confidently looks forward not only to her defence in 1943 but, proud of the achievements of her sons abroad, and aware of the gigantic forces that are building up on her own soil, she awaits the hour when she with the rest will go forth to attack and to be avenged on the treacherous foe that has attacked her.

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DARLAN is dead, struck down suddenly by an assassin. Let us not think ill of the dead; not while there is no great necessity for it. His last acts, though they cannot wipe out his

early treachery and malice, have, in a way made some amends for his past conduct. His assistance to Genl. Eisenhower in the early days of the Anglo-American occupation of North AFRICA seems to have been substantial. According to authoritative calculations he saved three weeks of precious time for the Allies and countered local resistance which could have impeded the Allied advance. He has been succeeded by Giraud—the man of marvellous escapes and a soldier, true and tried. Out of evil cometh good. Out of Darlan's assassination the impediments to an all French collaboration have been removed; and de-Gaullists and North and West African French are coming together to form a single French nation and a single French Army.

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EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN There is no doubt that the recent occupation of air and naval bases in North AFRICA following Rommel's flight has strengthened the Allies's position in the Eastern Mediterranean. This is amply proved by Mr. Casey's statement on Dec. 13 that Malta's larders which had run extremely low have now been replenished 'without incident.' Before November 1942 supplies to the island had invariably involved major fleet actions, and led occasionally and inevitably to serious losses such as those of the *Eagle* and the *Manchester*.

But the task of clearance of the Eastern Mediterranean is not yet complete, as may be inferred from the news of Sir Alexander's recent surprise tour of CYPRUS, and the later news of an R. A. F. attack on CRETE. Since the German occupation of CRETE, SYRIA and PALESTINE have come inside the danger zone; and in relation to them CYPRUS occupies a strategic position, standing 130 miles from HAIFA, about 300 miles from ALEXANDRIA, and 450 miles from TOBRUK. CYPRUS has ideal grounds for aerodromes—broad plains enclosed between mountain ranges—these have been recently strengthened.

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THE IBERIAN BLOC What is the significance of this latest portent of an Iberian bloc and of those speeches made by the ministers of SPAIN and PORTUGAL in language too diplomatic to mean anything? A recent MADRID report, quoted by a NEW YORK paper, of 'great concentrations of warships and planes at GIBRALTAR would, if reliable, imply that something is brewing in that corner of EUROPE. Lately, the Axis henchmen had been being holding secret consultations at Hitler's headquarters. Hitler just at present has need of a sensation and a diversion to prop up the drooping German morale. The reverses in RUSSIA and AFRICA have shaken confidence in Hitler and a sweep across the French border and a dash towards GIBRALTAR through SPAIN would be dramatic, whatever the final result. It would, for a time, hide the disgrace of Rommel's defeat and the coming shame of the evacuation of TRIPOLITANIA and TUNIS. The question that naturally

arises is will Franco be a willing tool or will he resist? Although it is true that his outlook is totalitarian and he owes something to Hitler for the aid he received in the Spanish Civil War, he cannot afford to enter on a war at present; economic, military and political reasons forbid such an alignment.

For centuries BRITAIN has been a friend of PORTUGAL, and it is inconceivable that PORTUGAL should swerve from the path of true fellowship in these testing times.

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FRENCH SOMALILAND At long last French SOMALILAND has rallied to the Allies and this means that the entire French Empire, with the exception of French INDO-CHINA and a few islands in the West Indies, is in the war against the Axis. Had the Allies been minded like Hitler, French SOMALILAND could have been occupied long ago and nothing shows Allied forbearance better than the fact that, all the time she was hesitating and delaying, British succour in food for the adult and milk for the children was coming in regularly in response to the appeal of the French authorities.

French SOMALILAND lies near the entrance to the Red Sea and its value is due to JIBUTI, her main port, which being connected with ADDIS ABABA, is the main artery of trade with ABYSSINIA.

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ALBANIA has been promised her freedom both in M. Molotov's recent statement, that the Soviet Union sympathises with ALBANIA in her present struggle, and the assurances given by the British and Greek Governments that they would help her to overthrow Italian tyranny. It may be remembered that on April 7, 1939 while EUROPE was still at peace Mussolini suddenly fell upon this tiny Balkan State and annexed it. But in time guerilla fighting was started by patriots to redeem ALBANIA's liberty, which has compelled ITALY to station 100,000 soldiers in ALBANIA—that is, a soldier for every Albanian adult. The recent pronouncements of RUSSIA, BRITAIN and GREECE may be said to have given formal recognition and approbation to this heroic guerilla revolt.

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MAGWE. For the benefit of the curious reader who may enquire why, of all places in BURMA, MAGWE is the object of almost daily attention of the R. A. F. we may state that MAGWE is an important town on the Irrawady and is the headquarters of a District and Division in BURMA. The Chin Hills where fierce fighting is frequent form part of this district. Here are also situated the YENANGYAUNG oil-fields, some of the richest in BURMA.

AKYAB. The Japanese withdrawal in the area adjacent to AKYAB, without striking a blow at the advancing Allied Forces need not be such a mystery as it appears. It is not like the Jap to withdraw without offering risistance, as may be seen from the stories reaching us from NEW GUINEA, where though in positions hopelessly forlorn he is reported to fight and die, prefering suicide to capture. The Jap is a fanatic. The quiet withdrawal at AKYAB shows that AKYAB cannot now be easily held—not because JAPAN has no re-inforcements or men, but because reinforcements and men can reach AKYAB only by sea and have now become incressingly the targets of British and American bombers. The Japanese have now learnt enough to respect the Allied Air Arm.

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SABANG. The British naval raid on SABANG (SUMATRA) is not unrelated to the British land-advance in BURMA. This is an indication that the initiative is being wrested from the Japanese both on land and sea. SABANG, situated on the tip of the Island of PULU WAI, is the Japanese advance base from SINGAPORE and is a port of supply for the enemy's troops in BURMA and for his raiders in the Bay of BENGAL. The Allied attack was made from aircraft-carriers and the enemy did not interfere.

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SIAM. The fate that has overtaken SIAM should serve as a warning to all folk gullible enough to believe in Japanese promises. Time was when the Siamese, though their mouth-piece *Bipul Songgram* said that 'the Thais would rather die than give up their independence.' How sadly have times changed! Siam has become a cog in the Japanese military machine. Far from being a partner in Co-prosperity she has become a Japanese adjunct under the Greater East ASIA Ministry and no doubt will, as in the case of KOREA and FORMOSA, be, in course of time, transferred to the Japanese Ministry of the Interior. The yen that JAPAN promised SIAM as a bribe were never sent. The Siamese baht, as a currency, has lost in value. SIAM'S rice fields and mines are depleted for JAPAN'S benefit. Even the Siamese language is being Japanised. Siamese life is regimented in all aspects after the Japanese pattern.

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HARA-KIRI ? An unconfirmed report tells of the suicide of Chang Chinghui, Premier of MANCHUKUO after poisoning his whole family and shooting his Japanese advisers. He was Tojo's pet. In March last, he talked of full co-operation with JAPAN in the New Asiatic Order. What has happened meanwhile that he should perform hara-kiri ? May be he is one of the first to see the Japanese sun set, the first quisling to realise his folly, the first individual victim of Co-Prosperity.

THE CALCUTTA RAIDS as was not unexpected, have given rise to fantastic rumours. We are told that the damage to life and property was heavy. But the DUM DUM aerodrome, the HOWRAH bridge, and the Railway station which are said to have been destroyed are still very much there, quite intact. That the Japanese object was to affect morale and not the destruction of military objectives is shown by their indiscriminate bombing and the use of anti-personal bombs. Three or four bombers, cannot in the nature of things make a heavy raid. Though numerically they attacked four times within a week the total damage caused has been very little, life has continued normal and militarily, the results have been negligible. In a way these raids have also demonstrated both the enemy's weakness and our strength. The enemy stole over the city at night, like a thief—a compliment to CALCUTTA's defences which are said to be the best outside BRITAIN. Nor had the raiders their own way. To quote from the Press Note on the subject:—

"Night interception is a form of defence, that improves with practice, and also it is not safe to assume that every enemy bomber, not definitely claimed as destroyed, finds its way safely back home. From the beginning of the war the R. A. F. has made it an invariable rule never to claim an enemy aircraft as destroyed, if there is the slightest doubt about it. Naturally it is much harder to be certain of the ultimate fate of an enemy aircraft if the combat takes place at night. It may well be that in addition to the one definitely destroyed some of the Japanese night-bombers which were damaged over Southern Bengal did not return to their bases".

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OUR RETURN VISITS. After all it is well to remember that at present it is we who have taken the offensive and started the invasion of BURMA. The MAUNGDAW—BUTHIDAUNG area has been occupied, the enemy withdrawing even without an attempt at fighting. In December the R. A. F. operating from INDIA averaged at least one attack against the Japanese in BURMA every 24 hours, the chief objectives being MAGWE, AKYAB, HEHO and TOUNGOO, while the U. S. Air Force operating on no less than 25 occasions attacked several centres, including RANGOON and BANGKOK.

The chief objectives were aerodromes, communications, docks, shipping and industrial targets. A special feature of the December attacks was the increase in low-leval fighter-sweeps, which naturally caused not a little damage.

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SIR SIKANDER'S sad and untimely death on December 26 leaves a void which is hard to fill. 'A wise and valiant soldier', as Mr. Churchill said, he was the first Indian to command a

company under fire. He had seen service in the 1914—1918 war and the last Afghan war. The hearty response of the PANJAB to the call to arms was greatly stimulated by Sir Sikander's precept and example. He loved the Indian soldier: thrice he visited the MIDDLE EAST to see things for himself. In his passing away INDIA has lost a great patriot and the Empire a true and worthy servant.

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SMALL COIN. We feel bound to say a word on the undoubted hardship caused by the shortage of small coin in circulation. But the Government cannot in reason be taken to task for this lamentable state of things. The Government have not only not withdrawn any money from circulation but they are putting in new coin in a hitherto unprecedented scale. 180 crores of new coin have been manufactured since the war began and 7 crores of them are newly added every month. The shortage is due to private hoarding either to sell it at a profit or to smelt it for the sake of the metal.

It is an offence against the law to hoard coin or to buy or sell it for other than its face value. The duty of the public is clear—which is to refuse to buy coin for other than the face value and to report and hand over the offenders to the authorities.

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THE RUBBER MISSION. Arising from the loss of MALAYA and the DUTCH EAST INDIES, Indian rubber, never more than 1% of the world's output, is coming to receive special attention. Owing to increased efforts the Indian crop, normally about 37 million pounds a year is expected to increase by one more million during the present season and by two millions in the next season. A British Ministry of Supply Rubber Mission will soon visit INDIA to give the production a further impetus.

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THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY'S TORPEDO SCHOOL, started about four months ago is reported to be in full swing now. As Sir Herbert Fitz-herbert, Flag Officer commanding the Royal Indian Navy said, 'This new and important branch of the Service places the Royal Indian Navy on a level with the Royal Navy and other portions of the Imperial Navy for the first time'. It is the second of its kind in the Commonwealth. Instruction includes the training, firing and recovery of torpedoes at sea, practice attacks on targets, maintenance and repairs, the handling of depth-charges and mines, and the operating of the electrical equipment. The training also gives a general education intended to fit the student to other services also, if he should return to civil life.

OUR YOUTH. We are glad to have the testimony of the Director of Public Instruction, MADRAS, that the youth of the Province have borne their part well in these testing times. In an article he has contributed to the latest issue of the *Madras War Review*, he informs us that the schools of the Province have sent a large number of students to be trained for the Indian Merchant Service and the Indian Navy. There was scarcely a college which had not a proud record of students who have joined the Army and the Air Force. Indirectly the war has in a way reduced unemployment of youth, though temporarily. But even these temporary avenues have done a permanent good in radically changing the attitude of the young men to occupations hitherto considered to be artisan employment and degrading manual labour. The Indian Army, Navy and Air Force have opened new careers of daring and enterprise. The A. R. P. and First Aid have shown their usefulness as a mode of training for social and civic services. The war has also given a tremendous impetus to industrial development, research, discovery and invention.

Indian youth, in active service, are acquiring the spirit of courage, endurance, self-sacrifice, devotion and true patriotism which are going to be very potent factors in the building up of a self-reliant INDIA in the days to come.

As they fight shoulder to shoulder with the young men of other creeds and communities a spirit of comradeship born of a brotherhood—not of arms only but truly national—is being cultivated, which will make for future Indian solidarity.

India's women are also playing their heroic part not only by sending their husbands, sons and brothers out for INDIA's defence, but by setting up an example themselves in innumerable forms of civilian service which a total war demands.

WAR ENTERS NEW PHASE.

(*Sir Archibald Wavell*).

New Delhi, Dec. 26.

The war has entered a new phase. At last we can see clear before us the road to final victory.

It may be a long road and a rough one but if all of you, whether in the armed forces, or in the factory, maintain your magnificent efforts, every man doing his utmost at his job, the end is sure.

VICTORY IN THE NEAR FUTURE

M. Kalinin.

Moscow. Jan. 1.

The Red Army had recaptured over 2,000 towns and villages.

Last year was a year of bitter fighting with Hitler and his Allies. He had collected all the forces in his own and other countries.

But the German plans were too ambitious. The fighting was always fierce and sometimes heavy; but the Red Army dashed to the ground Hitler's hopes.

Our position is now more advantageous than it was a year ago. This year the enemy's offensive was not carried out on the whole Front but only in the south and south-western sectors. It brought him few results.

His offensive power has decayed. The losses of the enemy are tremendous. And this year his operations cost him infinitely more than a year ago.

Our counter-offensive at Stalingrad and on the Central Front as well as in the Middle Don and the North Caucasus, has changed the situation into our favour. The German losses are so great that they will tell heavily in future on all these Fronts.

The number of prisoners and quantity of captured material is very high. Over 2,000 inhabited localities, district centres and towns have been recaptured by the Red Army. The offensive spirit of our people and our patriotism is rising from day to day. It increases our productivity. The Army is being well supplied with everything it needs by the great efforts of our workers and collective farmers.

The prospects of victory can be seen clearer on the threshold of 1943. Our united effort will give us victory in the near future, under the leadership of our great chief, M. Stalin.

OUR THREEFOLD TASK.

President Roosevelt.

Washington, Jan. 1.

One year ago 26 nations signed the Washington Declaration by the United Nations. The world situation then was grim indeed. Yet, on that last New Year's day, these nations, bound together by the universal ideals of the Atlantic Charter, signed an act of faith that military aggression, treaty violation, and calculated savagery, should remorselessly be overwhelmed by their combined might, and that the sacred principles of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness should be restored as the cherished ideals of mankind.

They thus created the mightiest coalition in history—mighty not only for its overwhelming material force, but still more for its eternal spiritual values.

Three other nations have since joined that coalition. The unity thus achieved, amidst dire danger has borne rich fruit. The United Nations are passing from the defensive to the offensive.

Our task on this New Year's day is threefold.

First, to press on with the massed forces of free humanity till the present bandit assault upon civilisation is completely crushed ;

Secondly, so to organise relations among the nations that the forces of barbarism can never again break loose ;

Thirdly, to co-operate so that mankind may enjoy, in peace and freedom, the unpriced blessing which divine providence, through the progress of civilisation, has put within our reach.

FIRST YEAR OF WAR IN THE PACIFIC.

ON DECEMBER 6, 1941, when Japanese aircraft-carriers were sneaking towards Hawaii, the effective naval tonnage of Japan and the United States (it is estimated) was as follows :—

Five Principal Categories.	U. S. Navy. Tons.	Japanese Navy. Tons.
BATTLESHIPS	384,200	310,400
AIRCRAFT-CARRIERS ...	120,300	130,550
CRUISERS	331,350	282,565
DESTROYERS	273,580	154,948
SUBMARINES	91,875	82,863
Totals ...	1,201,305	961,326

N. B.—A fair proportion of America's million-ton Navy is permanently earmarked for duty in the Atlantic, whereas Japan has no naval commitments outside the Pacific.

ON DECEMBER 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attack (by naval aircraft and pocket submarines) at Pearl Harbour, all eight battleships of the U. S. Pacific Fleet were lying temporarily disabled. *Five of them (total displacement 155,000 tons) were either sunk or so severely damaged that they would serve no military purpose for some time.* Apart from the insignificant loss of a few two-man submarines and aircraft, the Japanese Fleet remained intact.

ON DECEMBER 10, 1941, the spearhead of the British Far Eastern Fleet—comprising the battleship *Prince of Wales* (35,000 tons and the battle cruiser *Repulses* (32,000 tons)—was destroyed by enemy air action in the South China Sea. Still the Japanese Fleet remained virtually intact.

EARLY ALLIED LIMITATIONS.

UNTIL replacements could be provided or the damaged capital ships repaired, no general fleet action could be undertaken in the Pacific. *The heaviest units of the Allied Pacific force were—for the time being—8 inch gun cruisers. Long before these could engage the enemy they would be raked with shells from the much longer range 14 inch and 16 inch guns of the Japanese battleships.*

THE ALLIES had perforce to fall back on three secondary methods of attack (*i*) raids, by task forces comprising cruisers, destroyers and aircraft-carriers, on island links in the chain of Japanese communications and supply; (*ii*) attacks, by submarines, on enemy supply ships and naval units at sea; (*iii*) attacks, by carrier-borne and land-based aircraft, on enemy naval units at sea. **By the first two methods the expansion of the sphere of Japanese naval influence could be slowed down and by the third it was hoped to reduce the margin of advantage in naval tonnage which the enemy had secured by his initial success.**

GALLANT DUTCH ADMIRAL.

IN EIGHT MONTHS, from the attack at Pearl Harbour to the American counter-offensive in the Solomons, there was only one surface action between the opposing naval forces and there could be only one result. *Admiral Doorman was well aware of this when, in the fourth week of February, he sailed northward from Java with a force comprising five cruisers and four destroyers. Ahead of his small fleet were five Japanese aircraft-carriers and 15 cruisers, with a screen of at least 13 destroyers.* **The gallant Dutch admiral sailed on. Not one of his ships survived the ensuing series of engagements, but before they sank they had either sunk or damaged three heavy enemy cruisers and four destroyers.**

THIS PERIOD of eight months saw daring raids by Admiral Halsey's American task force on Marcus Island (a Japanese base barely a thousand miles from Tokyo) and other enemy strongholds in the Gilbert and Marshall groups. Planes from Pearl Harbour bombed Wake Island (seized by the enemy at the outset of the campaign), and enemy bases within bomber range of Midway Island, New Guinea and North Australia were repeatedly attacked.

CLIPPING JAPANESE WINGS.

MEANWHILE two clashes of the greatest importance took place in the Coral Sea (in May) and off Midway Island (in June). In both instances the action was confined to attack and counter-attack from the air, the opposing surface forces never sailing within gun-range of one another. At a cost of two aircraft-carriers (*Yorktown* and *Lexington*) and two destroyers (*Sims* and *Hammam*), five Japanese aircraft-carriers (*Ryukaku*, *Kaga*, *Akagi Soryu* and *Hiryu*), six cruisers, five destroyers and eight other warships were sunk.

A FLEET WITHOUT WINGS is like a shark without fins and, by clipping the wings of the Japanese Fleet in the Coral Sea and Midway actions, the American air arm made possible the reassertion of Allied sea power in the Pacific. **This success encouraged the Pacific War Council to resolve, earlier than**

had been expected, upon an Allied counter-offensive (limited, no doubt, but nonetheless pregnant with possibilities) northward from Australia and New Caledonia.

THE SOLOMONS OFFENSIVE.

ON AUGUST 7, 1942, U. S. Marines were landed on Guadalcanar and other islands in the Solomons group. The landings cost the Allied covering force four cruisers, but two objectives of major importance were quickly achieved: the seizure of Henderson airfield and the occupation of the harbour at Tulagi. **These two key bases have been held firmly through four months of intermittent enemy assault by land, sea and air. On three separate occasions major formations of the Japanese Navy have been repulsed in the Solomons area.**

ON NOVEMBER 13, 1942, a Japanese battleship sailing towards Guadalcanar found herself in a situation identical with that of *Prince of Wales* 11 months earlier. She was without air cover and her anti-aircraft guns proved insufficient protection. She was sunk. "*This*" said a Japanese broadcast (November 20), "*is the first battleship Nippon has lost since the beginning of the war and this in itself is an indication of the fierceness of the present battle.*" **It was also an indication that the tide was beginning to turn and Japanese losses in aircraft-carriers (though not admitted by Tokyo) were having serious repercussions.**

TWO JAPANESE HEADACHES.

A SERIOUS WORRY for the Japanese is the merchant shipping problem. Time and again Tokyo broadcasts have returned to this theme. On July 20, 1942, listeners in Japan itself were told: "*The Japanese Government is taking strong measures to solve the shipping problem......merchant shipbuilding will receive the same consideration as the construction of battleships.*" More recently, broadcasts have referred to salvage operations in the South Seas and have highlighted the launching of the first Japanese ships to be built at Singapore (November 27) and Hong Kong (December 7).

1. Japanese merchantmen sunk.

THE JAPANESE have admitted the loss of 65 merchant ships in the first year of war. *But it is known that, of the fleet of 6,000,000 tons with which she began hostilities, Japan has lost 1,000,000 tons sunk for certain and a further 1,500,000 tons probably sunk.* With those ships, Japan has lost many hundreds of trained seamen. **Small wonder, then, that a Tokyo broadcast to the Japanese people, on November 20, should have publicised the Navy Ministry's recruitment drive for the mercantile marine and announced that the training period at eight schools had been shortened by 21 months.**

2. American ship construction.

THE JAPANESE are worried, too, by the progress of American naval construction and the speed with which vessels sunk or damaged at Pearl Harbour have been salvaged, repaired and returned to service. Only one of the eight battleships attacked at Pearl Harbour is likely to be a total loss. Since that attack three new battleships have been commissioned and three more have been launched. Five new aircraft-carriers have been launched in

the past five months. **New warships are being laid down in the United States at the rate of 1,500,000 tons a year. American yards are now building merchantmen at the rate of a million deadweight tons a month.**

PEARL HARBOUR was a disastrous set-back. But, as the potential power of the United Nations is steadily translated into a reality, Japan begins to see the folly of challenging forces which she cannot hope permanently to master. Already she is beginning to pay—in ships and planes and men—for her miscalculation.

MODERN WARFARE.

Major Lewis Hastings.

One thing that has stamped a special mark on this war has been the use of land expeditions to capture sea bases. The interdependence, and the constant interchange of function of air, sea and land forces, is one of the most urgent lessons of the last three years. I do not think that anyone now doubts that most of our set backs in the past have been due in one way or another to our failure to recognise this fact, or to put it more exactly, to our failure to appreciate the tactical meaning of modern weapons and of the new mobility.

My talk to-day is supposed to deal with land operations only. But that sort of classification can be carried too far. The idea that you can discuss the events of this war exclusively in terms of one particular branch of the Service is "blasted with antiquity". War can no longer be departmentalised like that. Take this question of sea power again. It has been demonstrated not once or twice that security of sea traffic may depend just as much on shore-based weapons as anything else. The long battle in Egypt is a case in point. Essentially this is a struggle for control of the sea communications in the Mediterranean. It may sound like a paradox to say the right weapon to recover command of the sea at a given time may be an extra tank brigade. But it is true nevertheless.

It is not too much to say that the immensely increased mobility of modern warfare, due mainly to the internal combustion engine both in the air and on the ground, has put all kind of historic and traditional and emotional ideas of warfare squarely in the dustbin. A type of mind that can only conceive things in terms of one branch of the Services is bankrupt.

As a matter of fact, there are other levels, too, where changes of function are taking place. If you follow the campaign closely, I am sure you must have seen how the rigid distinction between artillery and infantry is disappearing. Guns to a very large extent have once again taken up the function given them by Gustavus Adolphus. They are not only the fire base for the infantry—they are now in many ways as infantry weapon. You cannot stop tanks with machine guns, and you cannot expect front line troops to rely upon a signal to some distant artillery headquarters in order to stop an imminent armoured attack.

Change, rapid change that affects whole ranges of weapons, and consequent change in methods, that is one of the keynotes of the war. Napoleon once said that tactics in battle alter radically every ten years. That may have been true of his time. It would be a gross understatement to-day. In one year of war, from the time of the early engagements in Russsia to the last encounter in Egypt, more alterations and improvements have been made in different arms than were made in Napoleon's whole life-time. And the tactics of the battlefield have had to keep pace with them.

To take one example only, tank tactics have had to be constantly modified, not only because of the growing power of new anti-tank weapons, but in order to give full play to the new types of very mobile, self-propelled guns that are more and more used in conjunction with armour. Yes, to-day science and invention have been harnessed to the armies, and strategy begins on the drawing-board.

I suppose a good many of you have seen the film called "The First of the Few". One thing it brings home forcibly. The seeds of victory in the Battle of Britain were sown, long before the war, by the forth-right minds and clever hands of the designers, the technicians, and the mechanics who worked with R. J. Mitchell. What do we not owe to these men who, inspite of the contemporary attitude of indifference and even disapproval, created a weapon like the Spitfire?

To-day, in battles of the present time, the best of leaders and the best of soldiers have an impossible task without the chemists and the engineers, and the men in the workshops who crystallise their ideas in steel. I spoke just now of the interdependence of all arms. But that is only one side of the matter. In this fight to a finish, the interdependence of all of us, whatever we can do—whether it is fighting or planning or tending the machines or digging the coal—the interdependence is absolute. One broken link anywhere, and the result is a smash somewhere.

Well, the basic fact about the whole struggle remains the same. I think we all recognise it. It is still our productive power pitted against the enemy's accumulated strength. Our own actual strength is enormous, compared to three years ago, but it is still scattered, and a very large part of it by force of circumstances is still for all practical purposes immobilised.

Somehow, that latent force has got to be transmuted into full action. We have got the power, but we have not yet developed the punch. But that is coming; I have no doubt about that.

And meanwhile, whenever I am inclined—as we all are—to feel a bit restive about the stumbling course of the war, I have my own remedy. I read my recent file of German broadcasts. Not because they are all untrue—for the truth will out occasionally, even in Nazi propaganda—but because the picture they present to the German people is one of such undiluted, unmitigated and incredible felicity. Goebbels goes glibly along, like a cat. Nothing

ever goes wrong in that Nazi cosmos. There are no failures; there are virtually no losses; everything is on oiled wheels; the assassinations are all according to plan; the U-boats and the Gestapo are everywhere on top; the R. A. F. hits nothing but villa residences; there are no complaints, there is no criticism.

This stream of gaudy mendacity is highly encouraging to contemplate when you recall a few of the hard facts. I do not know, but I do know that mental diet of cream tarts like this would turn a British stomach. War is never a path of roses. The situation from time to time is never completely satisfactory. But unlike the Germans, we can afford to look the thing in the face any way.

WOMEN AND WAR.

(*Times of India*).

A brief item of news appeared recently in the newspapers. Lieutenant Ludmila Pavlichenko, the famous Russian sniper, was being honoured by English women. The incident was symbolic. This war has proved time and again that women are capable of performing the most herculean of tasks. For us in India, stories of the great part women are playing in the various theatres of war give no cause for surprise. Indian history is packed with stirring tales of fighting queens and brilliant women thoroughly versed in the arts of statecraft.

Totalitarian war modelled on *blitzkrieg* methods has invalidated all distinctions between the civil population and the military forces; it has also brought home the lesson that, if such wars are to be won, women must bear an equal burden with their menfolk. Defence in depth is nothing but a recognition that the entire able-bodied population, must endeavour, by concerted or individual action, to impede the progress of the enemy. Spain was the first country to experience modern war and it was there that the reckless courage of her women, led by the famous communist La Passionaria, first amazed the world. La Passionaria, the twentieth century Joan of Arc, the woman whom General Franco rated higher than a general, typified the women of the new age. She became an idol of Spanish Socialists and a living inspiration to all women.

In China and Russia, the epic story has been repeated. In China, the women have covered themselves with glory in sturdy guerrilla warfare waged behind the Japanese lines. A woman, the lady Chao, as she is known in China, was responsible for organising the first guerrilla units. A farmer's wife, who could neither read nor write, she was one of the four women who organised and directed Chinese resistance, long after the main armies had withdrawn. Her fortitude and persistent courage are to-day almost legendary. She died with the knowledge that the women of China had acquired a status of equality hitherto unknown in the East. For in China women are actually

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fighting in the front line—forty thousands of them; in shabby, ill-fitting uniforms picked up from the fields of battle, the fields on which brothers, sweethearts and husbands had fallen under the Japanese guns.

In Soviet Russia, there is a special Women's Day, first celebrated twenty-six years ago. It was an important day in that great nation's history, for the men and women of Russia had decided to be one and equal. Talent and not sex became the criterion and many important jobs were entrusted to women. "Every cook must learn to rule the State", said Lenin. At this momentous time, when their country is besieged by Nazi hordes, the women of Russia have doubly repaid the debt to the men who trusted them twenty-six years ago. Everyone is well acquainted with the noble part these women have taken in their country's defence; the thousands of trained women parachute saboteurs are proof that they are to play a still more glorious part in the future, when the Red Army takes the final and all-out offensive against the Axis. In England, the silent courage and heroism of women during the terrible days of the *blitz*, earned the gratitude of the nation. Such devotion to duty can never be forgotten; it will live on to inspire women everywhere to take a dynamic share in moulding the world of to-morrow.

GASOLENE HIDDEN IN WALL

ARAB AID TO ALLIES AT SIWA OASIS.

New York, December 5.

Sheik Ali Senussi, an Arab Chief, refused to tell the Italians the whereabouts of a British gasolene cache when the Italians occupied Siwa oasis during Rommel's drive on El Alamein.

The Italians imprisoned Sheik Ali, who kept his secret until the British recaptured the Egyptian-Libyan frontier.

Senussi Arabs reported that the Italians were mostly youths. They said that few Germans remained at the oasis.

When the British arrived recently, an R. A. F. sergeant required gasolene, and Sheik Ali took him to the mud wall of a courtyard and ordered another Arab to attack it with a pick-axe. A wooden door was soon uncovered and the Sheik handed the sergeant a key. Beyond the door were five 44-gallon drums of gasolene.

POSTER.

Rs. 5,000—Reward.

Enemy Agents.

1. A reward up to Rs. 5,000 will be paid by the Government of India to any member of the public who apprehends alive a person who is subsequently convicted of being an enemy agent, or who is proved to the satisfaction of

the security authorities to have been actively engaged in giving assistance to the enemy.

2. A reward up to Rs. 1,000 will be paid to any member of the public who gives valuable information leading to the apprehension of any such agents.

3. In connection with the apprehension of such agents and the collection of information likely to be of value in apprehending such agents, the attention of the public is drawn to the necessity of reporting the following types of information as soon as possible :—

(i) the suspicious movement of shipping, particularly when such shipping is close inshore;

(ii) the appearance on the coast of India or elsewhere of suspicious parties of strangers whether armed and in uniform or otherwise;

(iii) the landing or passage of any aircraft not belonging to the United Nations, or the landing from aircraft by parachute of persons or articles of any kind;

(iv) any incidents which indicate enemy activity in the neighbourhood whether by land, sea or in the air.

4. IF INFORMATION IS TO BE OF VALUE IN THE APPREHENSION OF ENEMY AGENT IT MUST BE REPORTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

5. Any enemy agents apprehended should be handed over to or any information reported to

(i) in rural areas,—the village headman, or a police officer.

(ii) in town areas,—the nearest police officer or police station AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Village headmen and police officials will report the matter immediately to higher police authority or to the nearest military headquarters.

6. Claims for reward should be forwarded in writing by the claimant either to the District Magistrate, or the Collector of the district (in the case of Indian States, to the Resident or Political Agent) giving full details of the incident with date and time, names and addresses and statements of witnesses.

7. The rewards will normally be paid by the Magistrate in charge of the district concerned as soon as possible after the conclusion of the trial of the person apprehended, subject to the recommendations of the Court in which the trial was held.

8. The rewards will be paid at the discretion of the Military and Civil authorities, and the amount of the reward in each individual case will be assessed in accordance with the value and accuracy of the information furnished. The amount paid in any one case may be any sum up to Rs. 5,000 as referred to in paragraph 1 or up to Rs. 1,000 as referred to in paragraph 2.

9. The rewards are not payable to personnel of the Navy, Army and Air Force, or gazetted Government Servants, save in exceptional circumstances with the prior sanction of the Government of India. Non-gazetted Government Servants in civil departments are however eligible for rewards.

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ALL PROFITS GO TO WAR FUND.

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THE SECRETARY,

National War Front Bureau,

PUDUKKOTTAI. (South India.)

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXXVIII. (*Batch 4*)

9- 1-43	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.
10- 1-43	Nirpalani ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Avoor ...	7.30 ,,
11- 1-43	Karaiyur ...	7.00 ,,
11- 1-43	Kilattanayam ...	7.30 p.m.
12 -1-43	Konnaiyur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Melaveguppatti.	7.30 ,,

LECTURE CXXIX. (*Batch 5.*)

16- 1-43	Municipal Office.	7.45 p.m.
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